

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee on the governor's biennial budget     March 6 2015

my name Janice Wiedurwilt a member of the Rushford Friendship Club Meriden Connecticut

The Friendship Club is a social program specifically designed to support the mentally ill and help them contribute to society on a daily basis .the Friendship Club is completely DMHAS funded in these appropriations we are given the social opportunities we need , working with staff we stay productive in our society and learn how to contribute to our society. The fellowship the club provides and others like it give us the connectivity we need in our lives .without them many of us will slide back into deep depression, stronger bipolar symptoms and fight schizophrenia alone. If we are not funded many of us will fall into long-term hospitalization costing the state a huge financial burden that will rest on the shoulders of all of us .